

The free market can do a lot - Sinclair has been forced to back off their plans to run a biased, anti-Kerry political film as news. Unfortunately, they've only scaled back plans and clearly hope to slide under the radar with as much mud as possible while avoiding damage to their reputation.

This is unfair and unreasonable. As a minimum, Sinclair should be forced to give equal time to the Kerry campaign, time in which the Kerry campaign will control the content of the material.

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.